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SENATE MEMORIAL 2

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Nancy Rodriguez

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STUDY OF THE COMMUNICATION ACCESS TO DEMOCRATIC
AND POLITICAL PROCESSES FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING PERSONS.**

**WHEREAS, there are approximately twenty million persons,
or eight and six-tenths percent of the total United States
population three years or older, who are deaf and hard-of-
hearing persons; and**

**WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred ninety
thousand persons in the state of New Mexico who are deaf and
hard-of-hearing persons; and**

**WHEREAS, one percent of these persons use signed
language; and**

**WHEREAS, the number of people with any degree of hearing
loss continues to increase; and**

WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons often do not

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1 vote or register to vote due to a lack of availability of
2 equal communication access that results in their inability to
3 decide intelligently on the issues; and

4 WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons are
5 unintentionally left out of the democratic process because of
6 barriers in communication; and

7 WHEREAS, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons crave to be
8 empowered and to participate equally in the democratic process
9 and all other aspects of community life; and

10 WHEREAS, the general population needs education on deaf
11 and hard-of-hearing communication access needs; and

12 WHEREAS, the voices of the deaf and the hard of hearing
13 need to be heard in the democratic process;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing
16 persons and the office of the secretary of state be requested
17 to collaborate on a study to establish communication access to
18 ensure full participation in the democratic process for all
19 deaf and hard-of-hearing New Mexicans; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study determine how to
21 provide more interpreters at political events and closed
22 captioning on political television advertisements; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study result in
24 recommendations to be reported no later than January 30, 2008
25 to the appropriate legislative committee as determined by the

. 164378. 1

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1 New Mexico legislative council; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing
4 persons and the secretary of state.

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